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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

Mexico

SUBJECT

Intoxicating Mushrooms of Unidentified Species

PLACE ACQUIRED (By source)

F

DATE ACQUIRED (By source)

1955

DATE OF INFORMATION (Date or dates, on or between which, events or conditions described in report existed)

1955

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

RESPONSIVE TO

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE [redacted], Professor of Botany.

1. An employee of a major [redacted] firm, a member of the Board of Managers of an important botanical garden, is an amateur mycologist who has become particularly interested in mushrooms.
2. He has made two trips to the interior of Mexico to investigate the use of mushrooms in their religious ceremonies by an isolated tribe of Indians.
3. He found that this practice did exist. During their religious ceremonies these Indians eat mushrooms found in the locality, and as a result their minds are intoxicated so that they see visions. On his last trip to Mexico he ate two mushrooms of the species used by these Indians in their ceremonies. They made him sick. The mushrooms if eaten beyond one's capacity produce nausea and diarrhea. After being sick, however, he experienced visions which in his case took the shape of a multitude of architectural forms. A tolerance to these mushrooms can apparently be built up because he says that he saw one Indian eat 24 of these mushrooms without experiencing any ill effects. The mycologist himself experienced no "hangover" the day after he had eaten the mushrooms.
4. When he returned to the US, he brought with him three of the species of mushrooms used by these Mexican Indians. Since he has not been able to have them identified in the US, he has sent them to [redacted] for identification. [redacted] is the leading authority on the identification of mushrooms in the world.
5. I understand that the US drug companies Parke Davis and Company and Sharp and Dohme are interested in investigating the properties of these Mexican mushrooms.
6. I believe this man plans to make another trip to Mexico in the summer of 1956 for the purpose of learning more about these Mexican mushrooms.

- End -

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